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"SPRING LEAF" TEA Unsurpassed for fine delicate flavor. Preferred by many to stronger, higher cost Tea. Now sold at the former price of

5oc. LB. N. W. BURCHELL, 1325 F ST.

President's Correspondence With Foreign Rulers.

LOTS OF RED TAPE

RIGID ETIQUETTE THAT GOV-ERNS IN SUCH MATTERS.

Letters That He Never Reads-Samples of Fine Penmanship-The Great Seal.

The recent birth of a royal prince of England will soon be made the subject of a very formal and ceremonlous correspondence between President Roosevelt and King Edward. Although our chief magistrate learned by cable of the happy event in the household of the Prince of Wales a few hours after its occurrence the royal grandfather of the new prince will deem it essential to good form and etiquette to have mailed to the White House an autograph letter informing his fellow-ruler.

Indeed, President Roosevelt continually maintains a voluminous correspondence with the royal personages of the world. Whenever a royal birth, a royal marriage or a royal death occurs he is apprised of the fact through a missive signed by the reigning sovereign's own hand. All such letters demand immediate replies. Royal families as a rule are large, and their mem-bers make their exits and entrances from and to this mundane sphere at quite the usual rate. Moreover, they marry early and often, all of which means that the President's royal mail is sufficient to keep the average social secretary busy during the active hours of the day. Furthermore, whenever new ambassadors or ministers are accredited to this country the royal epistolary activity finds a new motive.

The president's royal autograph missives are technically known as "ceremonial let-ters." They are survivals of antique forms prescribed by the diplomatic etiquette of long ago. Kings are as loath to abandon the quaint ceremonial formulae of ex-pression common to their profession in the centuries past as are barristers and ecclesiastics.

Royal Etiquette's Demands.

The royal etiquette of correspondence obtaining in most countries demands that the monarch commence his ceremonial letters with a formal assertion of his divine right to rule. For instance, King Edward, when notifying Mr. Roosevelt of the birth of his grandson will begin thus:

"Edward, by the grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, king, defender of the faith, Emperor of India, etc., etc., etc. To the President of the United States of America sendeth greet-

ing:"
Then will follow the form of address:
"Our Good Friend." The letter will close: "Your Good Friend,

Edward R. and I."

Throughout the letter, the words "We," "Us," and "Our" will commence with capital letters. King Leopold of Belgium, when recently anonuncing the death of his wife, Queen Marie-Henriette, addressed the President in

"Tres cher et grand ami" (very dear and great friend) and closed the communication: letter delivered for sealing is a printed form of warrant signed by the President "Votre sincere ami" (your sincere friend.)
The King of Italy after asserting that he is king "by the grace of God and the will of the nation" writes: "The queen and we department fills it out so skillfully that the

ord title, and this he unfailingly affixes to each ceremonial letter by way of introduc-"We, Nicholas, Emperor and Autocrat of all the Russias, of Moscow, Klow, Vla-dimir, Novgorod, Czar of Casan, Czar of Astrakhan, Czar of Siberia, Czar of the Chersonese, Czar of Georgia, Lord of Ploscow and Grand Duke of Smolensk, Lithu-ania, Volynia, of Courland and Semigalle, of Bialostock, Porm, Viatka and other provinces, Lord and Grand Duke of Lower Novgorod, of Czernigo, Polotzk, Rostow, Iaroslaw, Bolovsersk, Oudor, Obdor and Widopsk, ruler of all the country of the north, lord of Armenia, hereditary prince

Turkestan, &c., &c., &c."
Having made his identification reasonably secure he sometimes imparts some informa-tion occupying less than half the space de-

voted to such an introduction. His conclusion is: "We pray God that He will keep you and the United States of America in His holy keeping. NICOLAS."

Royal Autographs.

The bodies of these ceremonial letters are never written with the royal hand, although the monarch's signature is always personally affixed. The kaiser's signature is by far the record breaker in the State Department files, both for size and flourish. Queen Wilhelmina is one of the few mon-Queen wineimina is one of the few mon-archs whose autographs can be distinctly read. King Edward employs the angular chirography characteristic of the English. An attendant is evidently close at hand with the royal blotter inasmuch as the dim-ness of his autographs are in contrast with ness of his autographs are in contrast with the sharpness of the bodies of his letters. Skilled chirographists are employed at all European courts for the engrossing of cerehe neatness and uniformity rather than the Latin-American presidents are written in copper plate penmanship, some of it so fine is to be detected from engraving only by aid of a strong glass. Monarchs and other executives address

our President in their native tongues. As soon as their letters arrive they are handed over to one of the translators of the State Department and their English equivalents in typewriting are affixed to them with paper fasteners. The tsar's letters are accompanied by a translation in French, as are those also of Japan. Letters from oriental monarchs are the

Letters from oriental monarchs are the most picturesque communications which the President receives from royalty. When the King of Corea wishes to thus address the President he transmits the communication in book form. One of these is bound in crimson silk and is fastened together at the back with thus silk cord.

crimson silk and is fastened together at the back with blue silk cord.

A ceremonial letter from the Emperor of China might reasonably be mistaken for one of the posters commonly seen upon the walls of celestial laundries. The characters expressing the body of the letter are in black, and are arranged in fourteen vertical rows differing in length. Two square seals having oriental characters within are affixed in red ink, one of them being the great seal of the emperor. great seal of the emperor.

Royal Mourning.

Letters announcing the death of European royalty are edged with heavy mourning, which is employed for all ceremonial communications issued during the period of court mourning.

While it is bad form for our home officials to address the President "his excellency," some European monarchs affix this title to the address upon the envelopes of their letters. An envelope in heavy mourning, bearing a letter in which King Leopold announces the recent birth of a royal Belgian princess, bears the inscription "Son Excellence, Monsieur le President des Etats Unis d'Amerique."

Mr. Roosevelt sees none of these royal tetters of ceremony, and this fact is well known to their senders. Nor does the chief magistrate's apparent indifference out his

magistrate's apparent indifference cut his fellow-rulers sorely to the heart, for they themselves never see the formal rapiles which he dispatches to them. So the whole affair is a polite sham, like a fifteen minutes' call. However, the custom keeps many men in employment and adds some tangible historic data to the archives of the State Department.

Monarchs do not intrust such letters to the ordinary channels of the public post. To begin with, they are written in the forcign offices of the respective governments, taken to the palaces for the royal signature and then transmitted by special mail pouches directly to the ambassadors and ministers of the powers accredited to Washington. These diplomats deliver them to the Secretary of State. In the event of a death of a royal person immediate notifica-

tion is made to the State Department by our diplomatic representative accredited to the afflicted court. The State Department immediately wires the President's condo-lence. Births and marriages in royal houses are not thus reported by telegraph as well as by mail

as well as by mail.

It is contrary to our traditions to initiate any of this ceremonial correspondence, other than letters accrediting or recalling diplomatic representatives. We never announce by letter or otherwise a death, birth or marriage in the presidential family, but effquette of course demands that the President acknowledge all cerethat the President acknowledge all cere monial letters which he receives and that he frame them as nearly as practicable ac-cording to the forms held sacred among the

Formula of Reply. Absolute formulae have been adopted for

all forms of our ceremonial letters. Mr. Sydney Y. Smith, chief of the diplomatic bureau, State Department, is Uncle Sam's authority as to these forms. It is he who actually does all of the President's letterwriting, so far as royalty is concerned. "Great and Good Friend" is the form of address which he employs for all ceremonial letters in reply to announcements of royal eaths, births and marriages.
"May God have your majesty in His wise

keeping. Your Good Friend. Theodore Roosevelt," is the form of closing. Such letters begin as follows: Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States. To his majesty, etc., etc."
Each sovereign must, however, be addressed according to his preferred form. For example, a recent letter to the Emperor of Austria was commenced (after the cus-tomary heading "Theodore Roosevelt, etc.") as follows: "To His Majesty, Francis Jo-seph, Emperor of Austria, King of Bohemia, Apostolic King of Hungary." The King of Portugal must be addressed "His Most Faithful Majesty;" the King of Spain, "His Catholic Majesty;" Emperor William, "His Importunity of Portugal Majesty;" Emperor William, "His

Imperial and Royal Majesty." A president of a republic is addressed "His Excellency." President's Penman.

An expert penman, Mr. E. B. Russ, is employed in the diplomatic bureau to write all of these ceremonial letters coming from the President. It is difficult to distinguish his chirography from the most delicate steel engraving. He employs the finest of pens and the blackest of inks upon a special quality of gilt-edged paper, cut in sheets larger than foolscap. Each finished sheet is sent to the White House by messenger. The President hurriedly affixes his big, scrawling signature. Then the sheet is returned to the State Department to be countersigned by Secretary Hay. It is finally placed in an envelope, which latter must be sealed with the great seal of the United States. Pafore the great seal of the United States. Before the missive is malled a copy is made by a clerk. The two are dispatched to our diplomatic representative at the foreign court, who is instructed to deliver the copy to the minister of foreign affairs and the original to the monarch "in such fashion as may be most agreeable."

The body of President Roosevelt's letter acknowledging notification of the English prince's birth will read as follows: "I have received your letter announcing I have received your letter announcing the birth of a son to your imperial house. I cordially participate in the pleasure which the happy event has afforded to your majesty's imperial family. May God have you in His wise keeping, etc."

Ceremonial letters announcing their succession are sent out by most of the pred

cession are sent out by most of the presi-dents of republics, but this custom does not obtain in this country.

Almost as much red tape is required in

the fixing of the great seal of the United States to these letters as in actually framing and preparing them. The great seal is kept locked in a cabinet in the office of Chief R. B. Mosher of the bureau of ap-pointments, State Department. It is one of Mr. Mosher's functions to insure against the falling of any impressions from the seal into the hands of a private individual. The law is explicit in stating that the impression shall not be affixed to any instrument without the special warrant of the President. Accompanying each ceremonial have received with satisfaction, etc."

The Czar of Russia can boast of the rectirguished, one from the other.

The envilope of the letter is glued fast in the usual way, the impression of the seal being made only upon a large white wafer 21/2 inches in diameter, with scalloped This wafer is first cut from a special brand of heavy paper by a die which bites it from one of the sheets supplied. The sealed wafer is then glued to the flap of the letter. There is but one case known where an impression of the great seal was ever given to a private individual. He obtained it for some historical purpose by special act of Congress.

OLD AFRICAN GOLD MINES. and sovereign of the princes of Circassia and other princes of the Highlands, lord of Evidence of Extensive Operations Carried on Many Years Ago.

> From the Youth's Companion. Rhodesia, or British Zambesia, ranks among the chief gold-bearing countries of the world. The ancients mined and carried away enormous quantities of the precious metal, but under the scientific mining systems of the present day their operations will be greatly surpassed. In the recently published work on the "Ancient Ruins of Rhodesia," the authors, Messrs, Hall and Neal, endeavor to discover who the ancients

were and whither the gold went. Perhaps Rhodesia was the ancient land of Ophir, the land of the mysterious "King Solomon's mines," but the theory is strongly combated by some investigators. The ancient gold workings are the basis of modern workings. For every ten square miles of Rhodesia there was one ancient mine, that is, there are 75,000 old holes, which means that a stupendous wealth was dug out of the earth before the days of Cecil Rhodes. Much of this wealth must have gone to the north and east; it was probably wrought into the crown of the Queen of Sheba and filled the coffers of

The ancient smelting furnaces are still easy to recognize. They are sunk into the floor. The furnace blowpipes are made of the finest granite-powder cement, and the nozzles of the blowpipes are covered with splashes of gold. The linings of the holes are covered with specks of gold. When the first lining became worn by the heat, a fresh lining of cement of an excellent quality, which has outlasted time, was smeared round on top of the old lining. One can take an old lining, slit off the layers with a knife and find gold splashes in abundance

Apparently the ancients wasted gold lavishly. Gold has been found in large quanti-ties in the form of pellets as large as buckshot in the vicinity of the furnaces, and also thrown away on the debris heaps out-side of the old buildings.

The tools of the ancient workers which have so far been discovered include a small soapstone hammer and burnishing stones of water-worn rock, to which gold still adheres. There are evidences that the ancients carried on an extensive industry in the manuufacture of gold ornaments and utensils. Thirty-five thousand dollars' worth of gold ornaments have been taken in the last five years from the ruins of Matabeleland alone.

Conductor's Honest Rake-Off. From the New York Times.

A conductor of a 6th avenue car, during a lull in the ringing of fares, stood passing coins from one hand to the other, turning up the date of each coin as he did so "There are more ways of making money than by 'knocking down' fares," he re marked, noting the inquiring look on a passenger's face. "Any greenhorn can pocket a dozen nickels in collecting 120 fares in a car built for forty-eight passengers, but a man has got to know something to spot a coin that has a premium value. It's surprising how many more or less rare coins pass current without falling into the hands of some one who knows their value. This was suggested to me one day, and I took to studying the catalogues of dealers in rare coins and memorizing the dates of those that are worth more than the prices stamped on them. Since then I have picked out of the money I have taken in fares several hundred coins with a premium value ranging from a few cents to \$5, and have redeemed them with my own money and sold them to dealers in coins."

the West End.

HISTORIC HOMES

MANY OF THE OLDEST STILL IN EXISTENCE.

Personalities of Some of the Dwellers Whose Names Make National History.

Written for The Evening Star.

It is something out of the common to know a man who can give you personal experience of things that belong to what we call the past. Here is a little recital. A gentleman talking of Washington as it looked during the Tyler administration said: "At that time Lafayette Square was like a big front door yard, nothing more; cattle invaded the place, and the music of cowbells was often heard. I, myself, was a lad, and did not disdain to drive our cows a little beyond, toward 19th street, where were farm lands, belonging to different people. My chums," he continued, "were the Tyler children, and many a romp and game of blind man's bluff was played in the east room. My father had been an officer in the war of 1812, but when he died my mother was left a poor widow, with a brood of littile children to educate and maintain. She was a brave, sensible woman, and went to was a brave, sensible woman, and went to work with a will, taking a large house on Lafayette Square for what was then called a large rent—\$100 per month. She turned it into a fashionable boarding house. I mean the red brick that has had so many names. First it was called the Rogers house, because it belonged to Commodore Rogers; afterward the place in front of which-Sickles shot Phil Barton Kow, then it was Sickles shot Phil Barton Key; then it was known as the Seward house, because it was there that the attempted assassination of Secretary Seward took place, at the time Mr. Lincoln was murdered by Booth. Now it is the site of the Lafayette Square The-

"During its occupancy by our family it was noted as a rendezvous for very important people—army and navy officers, cabinet ministers, senators and members. Presentant Polls boarded there. Laby C. Spencer ident Polk boarded there. John C. Spencer, one time Secretary of War, and once Secretary of the Treasury, with his family, was living in that house when Lieutenant Ganzsworth came with the sad news of the execution of Spencer's son for mutiny and attempted piracy on the high seas. He was an officer on the brig Somers in South American waters. A court-martial had been hastly called, the charge that young Spencer had incited mutiny and endeavored to turn the brig into a pirate vessel. The verdict of the court-martial was that he should be punished by death. By order of Slidell Mackenzie, Spencer was hung at the yard arm of the brig Somers. Mackenzie was executed for the indeavor The yard arm of the orig somers. Macken-zie was execrated for the indecent haste. The father never recovered from the shock, and both men were ruined by this tragic event. The lady who kept this noted house. busy as she was, found time to arrange and start many beneficent, charities which flourish now. All honor to a brave, fine woman. "It seems to me that the street from Pennsylvania avenue was then called Executive avenue. The first house on the corner was even then an old-fashioned, moderate-sized red brick house with a beautiful conservatory. It was occupied by a dentist, whose son afterward became surgeon general of the navy. You see, at that time Washington had only about 20,000 inhabitants, so one knew of his neighbors. Close to the Rogers place was a large, roomy house, known as the Mrs. Madison house, where d and anxious on account of the escapades of her undutiful son, Payne Todd, she having been the widow of Todd when Madison married here

"She was painfully embarassed for money and was then trying to get Congress to buy the Madison library. Poor as she was, she was ever a queen, and always most attractive. She was generally surrounded by a bey of young girls, among whom was Adele Cutts, a relative, and who afterward became Mrs. Stephen A. Douglas, and then Mrs. Williams. At that time the corner house was occupied by Senator Crittenden,

now the Cosmos Club.
"The corner opposite on H street and diagonally across, was vacant ground, and there is nothing to say about it, though farther along there was a large double house, stucco exterior, built by a rich man, Matthew St. Claire C. Clark, now owned by the Coleman-Freeman estate. Next to it is old St. John's Church. They appear as they did then

On Lafayette Square.

"Crossing 16th street is at present the handsome residence of the Secretary of State, John Hay, and next a house owned by Henry Adams. This locality had nothing particular to distinguish it, but there is now a broad, square light-brick house that has in time been occupied by many people who figure in history. What is pointed out as Senator Depew's house, and which was the last residence of the great philanthropist, W. W. Corcoran, is still owned by his estate. Among the families which have occupied it may be mentioned that of Senator Brice, whose hospitality knew no bounds. Mrs. Brice herself will always be remem bered as one of the most gracious hostesses ever as one of the most gracious hostesses ever associated with the capital, but the house once occupied by Daniel Webster has a claim to distinction. I think it was once bought by the state of Massachusetts for him, though it is now owned also by the Corcoran estate. The splendid grounds, which are inclosed by a high brick wall, are its greatest attraction. The house has had many notable occupants; it was once used as a boarding house used as a boarding house.

"Diagonally across the street stands a large unattractive house, still known as the Decatur house, though it belongs to the Beale estate. Next to it, facing the square, is a modern house that has had many official occupants, and within the year it has been used as a temporary executive mansion by President Roosevelt. A little far-ther along are the Blair houses, one owned by Mrs. James Blair; next is the General Parke house. All of these have had most hospitable owners. About the middle of the square is a broad three-story house that has had strange histories, too numerous to mention, though it is always called the Sickles house. It is now owned by Admiral and Mrs Ludlow. It was once called the Stockton house on account of Admiral Stockton's ownership, though it was built by Judge Levi Woodberry of the Supreme Court while he was Secretary of the Treasury. I forgot to say that the Decatur house was once owned and occupied by Mr. Gadsby, who made his money keeping the Gadsby Hotel, now the National Hotel, on Gadsby Hotel, now the National Hotel, on Pennsylvania avenue. Passing around the corner you find the Montgomery Blair house, facing Pennsylvania avenue and the War Department. That house also looks as it did when it was occupied by Tom Ewing, Secretary of the Interior, father of Mrs. General Sherman. Miss Ewing, then, was a colorally average of the father of the f was a splendld woman, a great favorite, the well-bred woman, who treated all guests alike, making every one welcome. An Old-Time Home.

"Next is the residence of Admiral Lee. and over that house still presides a real gentlewoman; she was a Blair. If you cross the avenue and go down to F street you will find on the corner the old house of General Macomb, afterward used as Grant's headquarters before he became President. Until you come to 18th street the houses are commonplace, and as far as I know, have no distinctive histories, though on the corner stands a fine large, square brick house, of late owned by Mrs. Senator Stewart, where she exercised, during her life, a generous hospitality. The commodious grounds attached to the house are spacious and filled with grand trees. It looks much the same as it did when an English admiral owned it. The bricks were brought from England, and the walls look like those of a fortification. There have been many names for this house, and from time to time rumors that there are hidden chests of gold in the grounds—many millions! Nobody has found them, and it stands in peace. waiting for the credulous. Opposite is also a large house, now owned by Chief Justice Manuel Rango, editor of Libertas, of Manila, has been sentenced to six months' imprisonment at hard labor and to pay a fine of \$2,000 gold for libeling General Rell.

Parker, Bridget & Co.

Ninth and the Ave.

Parker, Bridget & Co.

Changes He Has Seen Around Undermuslins at Sale Prices.

It's quality that makes this sale so very much more important than the ordinary run of Underwear sales. Undermuslins of the grade we sell are not usually to be found at sale prices, and it's only a "once-a-year" event that puts prices down to this level with us. -We've not only put in the specially bought goods, but all our regular stock-even including the French Undermuslins. And the concessions we got on the specially bought goods are taken as a basis of the whole scale of prices. We're putting in everything as though we bought it all under price. New lines of garments are being added every day. It keeps the sale fresh and fills up the gaps the selling makes.

\$1.00 Garments - - - - 75c. \$2.50 Garments - - - - \$1.75 \$1.50 Garments - - - - \$1.00 \$3.75 Garments - - - - \$2.50 \$2.00 Garments - - - - \$1.25 French Underwear in proportion.

The Fur Sale.

- Fur's flying. Right here on the threshold of the severest weather we're inaugurating our clearance sale of Furs. There won't be a fur piece or a fur garment left when the fur season is over-that's one reason for starting to clear them out early at reduced prices.

-A lot of very fine Persian Lamb Coats (Liepzig dye) with collars, cuffs and revers of deep, rich chinchilla—coats that sell usually for \$87.50 \$150 and \$175, to go for

Suit and Coat Sale.

-We call it a sale because it gives you garments at prices \$10 to \$20 under what's usual for them. The maker stands the reduction, for he has produced garments that in the earlier season cost \$10 to \$20 more. Demand controls price with him, and these Suits and Coats were made up in the month when manufacturing such goods was "slow."

-Dress Suits and Walking Suits that you'll approve, not only in quality, but in that something of style that it takes cleverness to design and ability to produce. Coats - in silk and cloth-most of them one-of-a-kind garments - made for us only.

15. 18 & 20 Hats Reduced to 10.

—That shows our determination to make a complete clearance of the present stock of Millinery. Imported Hats that you'll say are the cleverest creations you've seen.

Silk Waists worth up to \$22.50 for - - - - -

PARKER, BRIDGET

Head-to-Foot Outfitters.

Ninth and Penna. Ave.

gainly, but belonged to a naval family and, no doubt, was considered a fine place

A Georgia Beauty.

"Once the home of Hugh Haralson of Georgia, the friend and backer of John C. Calhoun (he was always a fire-eater), the place is still pointed out where Haralson had something more than a mere political encounter in the old House of Representatives. With him it was a word and a blow tives. With him it was a word and a blow, only the blow came first. He was the rich man of Georgia, and came to Congress with his family servants and outriders, in carriages, all the long distance. It was an event when the Haralsons arrived; the daughters were beauties—one of them became the wife of Gen. John B. Gordonhospitality unstinted and political power

unquestioned, it wasn't every man that had such a pact with good fortune. "The gayest house then was what you call now the old Van Ness place. Heavy coaches of those days, filled with fine ladies, were always going to and fro. Even then there were traditions of deep cellars and a secret underground passage that led to the Potomac. No one was disturbed, no one cared. Still, it is a house that has a history that can be dovetailed into our his-

"The canal that is now covered up, had a picturesque look. Every street had a bridge. Going a-fishing meant fishing in the raging canal. Pretty girls often indulged in the pastime, and the beaux followed suit. Washington was a Sleepy Hol-low most of the year and there was plenty

"How distinctly I remember seeing President-elect William Henry Harrison. As he landed in Washington he stepped from a close, box-like car, which was run on a wooden rail with flat iron top, very primitive indeed. It was near the day of the in-

auguration. He Walked Up Town.

"It was snowing, the street and sidewalk slushy. He walked along Pennsylvania avenue with a sturdy air, though he looked thin and delicate; he wore a heavy, long cloak. On that day he contracted a cold that developed into pneumonia. I believe

by the 4th of April he was dead. "To me he had the air of being thoroughbred. Afterward," said the gentleman, "I was one of the twelve marshals who escorted General Taylor to the Capitol and back to the White House, to the blue room, where we formed into a solemn line, whispering as each person passed that there could be no shaking of hands, as the President's right hand was temporarily disabled. The faces of the visitors became a study, disappointed in not having the American privilege; some even walked on tip-toe. Every thing was solemn. General Taylor look-ed like his pictures. There is another picturesque figure, old Sam Houston, who used to strike an attitude in front of the Indian Queen Hotel, now Metropolitan, wearing a big sombrero hat, turned up at one side; a capacious neckerchief, and an ample military coat, something of the border ruffian style; but when Houston spoke polished gentleman appeared; many wer-the absurd stories told about his character istics, but he was always in great demand "There were so many small cemeteries scattered all over Washington that a stranger might have thought that a family or even a small chapel was not of much ac-count unless it had a private graveyard of its own. What has become of them and whence have they disappeared is a mystery to an old-timer like myself. And as we grow old we become garrulous, perhaps. Time hangs heavy and moves at a snail's pace, so I say adieu."

A VALUABLE SALT CELLAR. One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars

Per Ounce and More Per Inch.

From the London Telegraph. Since the Dunn-Gardner sale in the sun mer most people have been aware of the great lengths that collectors will go to secure the possession of some old silver trophy. Of course, the silver craze is no new form of the collecting mania. For years previously prices were steadily rising, and the Dunn-Gardner dispersal simply provided an opportunity of giving auction sanction to the standards that had grown up in private deals. Yesterday another confirmation was afforded. A short time ago an anonymous gentleman sent to Chrystie's a standing salt cellar and cover, dated 1577, and the experts of the firm quickly discerned its worth, ascribing the piece of craft—only 7% inches high—to Thomas Bampton of the Falcon, the great Elizabethan smith. Although there may

MAYER BROS. & CO., 937-939 F Street. NO CONNECTION WITH ANY OTHER RETAIL HOUSE IN TOWN,

The Clearance and Rummage Sales.

They'll continue till our object is accomplished—that of closing out all odds and ends and making a complete clearance of all winter stocks. Fresh items are coming up every day. Everything in the house will in its turn come within the reduction lists, and you may expect sensations, for we'll let no sacrifice stand in the way of reaching the end in view.

SUITS. Ladies' All-wool Suits, in Basket Cloth, Venetian and Broadcloth. Jackets lined with taffeta silk or the best quality satin-skirts unlined or with drop underskirts. The col-

SUITS Of best quality All-wool Broadcloth, Venetian and Serge, in blue and black; jackets lined with \$15 taffeta silk—skirts lined or unlined. Latest style col-\$15 lars, cuffs and sleeves. Worth \$25. Now.....

COATS. A lot of High-class Kersey Cloth Coats, in threequarter and full lengths—all the latest \$10

A rummage about the house brings these

values to light. Look for them on the different bargain tables: 25c. Leather Goods, now...... 10c. 25c. Ornaments, now..... 5c. 50c. Fancy Feathers, now...... 10c. \$1.00 Fancy Feathers, now 25c. 75c. Chenille Trimmings...... 25c.

MAYER BROS. & CO., 937-939 F Street.

STORE OPENS AT 8:30 A.M.; CLOSES AT 5:30 P.M.

admiration went round the room. auctioneer's request for a bid of \$1,000 to begin and next for \$500 was met with the cry of "One hundred!" Dealers dearly love an affair of outposts at the beginning, and the big guns walt until the smaller competitors have exhausted themselves. At £1,500 it was evident that the affair was to resolve itself into a duel between Mr. Charles Werthelmer and Mr. Lionel Crichton. When £2,300 was reached Mr. Werthelmer openly declared that he had had enough. So keen, however, are the polemics of auction that at £2,500 he weaved into the struggle again. Crichton, steadfastly determined to obtain the trophy, coute que coute, also went on, and at £3,000 silenced the rest of the com-

This is an extraordinary price to pay. In the Dunn-Gardner sale the Tudor cup, for which the same purchaser gave £4,100, worked out at about £290 per ounce. After the sale yesterday Mr. Crichton had the salt cellar weighed, and informed our representative that the silver in it was 9½ ounces, which brings the price to nearly £325 per ounce. Of course, this is leaving out of the calculation a few ounces of rock crystal, which beautifies the design con-siderably. So much interest will be felt in this remarkable example that a tech-nical description in detail of it is worth

nical description in detail of it is worth appending.

It is composed of three parts, of silver—the base, capital and cover. The central portion is of rock crystal, cylindrical in form and hollow, forming the receptacle for a small group, also of silver gilt, representing Venus holding aloft a laurel wreath, while at her feet sport two Amorini. The ends of the crystal case are closed by the giver-gilt capital and base, connected one ends of the crystal case are closed by the silver-gilt capital and base, connected one to the other by delicate bands shaped to the outlines of caryatid figures. The base is rectangular, having two friezes of stamped classic moidings and at the corners claws, in which are fastened small balls of rock crystal, forming feet. The field upon which the cylinders rest is concave in section, embossed and surface chased with draped masks, strapwork and groups of flowers and fruit, the ground work being worked to a matted surface. The capital is a like form reversed, but the embossed masks, etc., changed for a finely designed molded egg-and-tongue ornament. Elizabethan smith. Although there may have been many counter attractions in public places yesterday, Christie's was crowded with representatives of every section of connoisseurship when this superb example was offered. It is not long ago that such a sale would have been postponed until the season was at its height, but it would seem nowadays that there are to be few dull days at Christie's—even just before Christmas.

When Mr. Anderson, the auctioneer, called for the production of the lot a buss of the capital is a convex hemispherical cavity, embossed from a

The square-shaped plaque, the corners being ensquare-shaped plaque, the corners being en-graved with scroll work.

The cover is square shaped, with a cir-cular dome top, repousse and chased with masks, strap work and group of fruit, the ground matted. Above is a pliaster form supporting a small crystal ball, on which in turn is fastened a small statuette of a nude boy, holding bagpipes under his left arm, his right foot resting upon a tree stump; around the lower edge of the cover is applied a cable pattern molding, and at the four corners are riveted small faceted glass

> Agriculture in Alaska. From the San Francisco Chronicle.

We are gradually learning the agricultural possibilities of Alaska through the products which are being experimentally developed in the territory. In several parts of the territory cabbages and other garden truck common to the temperate zones have been produced successfully, and the size and quality of these products compare favorably with similar agricultural productions raised in more southerly latitudes. Then, again, several kinds of food grains have been ma-tured at various points. These experiments prove beyond question the capacity of the soil and climate for agricultural employ-

ment.
The upper Yukon is adding to the evidence of Alaska's agricultural possibilities. In the neighborhood of Dawson gardeners have produced this year a large and ready truck, which commands a good and ready market on the spot. Dawson is, of course, in Yukon territory, but it is so close to Alaska that its adaptability to agriculture proves the capacity of its larger and more favored neighbor in the longer reaches of the main neighbor in the longer reaches of the main valley from the southeastern boundary to the sea. This year Swedish turnips of mammoth proportions have been grown in the upper Yukon, in the neighborhood of Dawson, and it is intended to send a collection of them to the St. Louis exposition.

THE SATURDAY STAR. By Mail \$1.00 per Year.